

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1-9, 11-14 & 16-19 have been amended to more clearly describe the invention. Specifically, "a buyer" has been replaced with "an organization", to more particularly point out that one organization is the buyer for all of the items listed in the publication.

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintained each rejection in the previous Action and made this rejection final. Applicant attempted to distinguish the present "buyer" as a single "organization" in the previous Amendment however, the distinction was not accepted by the Examiner. This Amendment distinctly claims that the present publication is for a single "organization". Since the present Amendment places the Application in condition for Allowance, or at least places the Application in better form for Appeal, it is respectfully request that this Amendment be entered in the Application.

In the Office Action, claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as being non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is traversed. Applicant's previous Amendment to claim 11, made it clear that the present publication is "stored and executed on at least one computer". Applicant contends that using at least one computer to publish the requirements of an organization is clearly within the realm of statutory subject matter. Evidence for Applicant's contention is provided by the large number of U.S. patents that are issued every week on computer programs, especially Internet applications that are stored and executed on at least one computer, which includes a server.

Also in the Office Action: claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 11-13, 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by PTO 892 Reference U ("Craig's List"); claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of Craig's List; claims 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Craig's List in view of PTO 892 Reference V ("Net News"); claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Craig's List in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0007324 ("Centner"); and, claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Craig's List in view of U.S.

Patent No. 5,727,156 issued to Herr-Hoyman, et al. ("Herr"). These rejections are deemed moot in view of the present amendment. However, applicant's prior arguments against the above references are repeated below for easy reference.

The present invention discloses an electronic bulletin board that allows a single organization to publish all of its requirements so that producers, service providers and other "vendors" can view the organization's requirements. The requirements listed in the present solicitation bulletin board are those of a single organization, meaning the same organization purchases every item listed in the bulletin board. No fee is charged for listing requirements in the present publication, as the buyer/organization, also administers the bulletin board. Further, no members of the public are allowed to post listings in the present publication. Moreover, the present electronic publication provides vendors with editable electronic forms, including requests for information, quotes and proposals that allow the vendor to initiate negotiations with the organization. For large requirements, such as installation of a heating and air conditioning system, vendors can register with the present electronic publication and the vendors will be sent electronic updates regarding changes to the requirement.

Amended claim 1, for example, recites "electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, and further wherein an item is a product or service required by the organization; posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors and creating a registration section that allows vendors to register with the organization, wherein after registration the vendors can received electronic notifications concerning any item specified....".

Craig's List teaches an electronic version of the classified advertisements (hereinafter "ads" or "ad"). Members of the public place ads in Craig's List, just as they would in the classified ad section of their local newspaper. However, instead of their ad being published in

the local paper, the ad is published on the Internet, in the Craig's List website. The website is divided into categories, just as the classified ad section of the paper. The vast majority of the items listed on Craig's List are offered for sale, and not for purchase. Most of the sellers in Craig's List are charged a fee for publication. Moreover, since Craig's List publishes ads that are placed by the public, there are different buyers and sellers for every item listed in the publication. In a classic buyer-seller relationship, Craig's List is a middleman, or 3rd party, that serves the needs of many sellers and many buyers. The third party facilitator provided by Craig's List is not needed in the present electronic bulletin board.

Craig's List fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, and further wherein an item is a product or service required by the organization; posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors and creating a registration section that allows vendors to register with the organization, wherein after registration the vendors can received electronic notifications concerning any item specified.

Net News teaches an on-line auction website, similar to e-bay, that is available to the public. Both, buyers and sellers are required to register with the website, if they want to conduct business in Net News. The needs of thousands of buyers are met by the service provided in Net News. Further, the multiple buyers in Net News are responding to items listed for sale, not for purchase, in the publication. Net News teaches away from the present invention by requiring registration of both buyers and sellers. Registration of buyers is not an issue in the present invention, as there is only one buyer, the organization. Net News is another 3rd party in the buyer-seller relationship. There is no 3rd party involved in the present system.

Net News fails to disclose electronically publishing a organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein

each category includes one or more items required by the organization, and further wherein an item is a product or service required by the organization; and creating a registration section that allows vendors to register with the organization, wherein after registration the vendors can received electronic notifications concerning any item specified.

Centner teaches a web-based service for buyers and sellers. The buyers set up accounts with the Centner service and each account includes a list of preferred suppliers. Posted listings from the buyers are sent out directly to the preferred suppliers associated with each buyer. The buyers' accounts are stored on Centner service hardware, and the Centner service is responsible for administration of the accounts. Thus, access to the accounts is not limited to the buyers. Centner represents another system wherein a 3rd party, or middleman, must be involved in the buyer-seller relationship.

Centner fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, and further wherein an item is a product or service required by the organization; posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors and creating a registration section that allows vendors to register with the organization, wherein after registration the vendors can received electronic notifications concerning any item specified.

Herr teaches a simple method for protecting hypertext documents once they have been uploaded to a server and made available to others via the Internet. The method involves the use of a unique identifier, and subsequent password, that are given to a document's author. Subsequent access to the document, for modification purposes, can only be obtained with the author's password.

Herr fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein

each category includes one or more items required by the organization, and further wherein an item is a product or service required by the organization; posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors and creating a registration section that allows vendors to register with the organization, wherein after registration the vendors can received electronic notifications concerning any item specified.

The teachings of Net News, Centner and Herr do not make up for the deficiencies of Craig's List. None of the references teach a system wherein an organization publishes its requirements in an electronic bulletin board. The combination of Craig's List, Net News, Centner and Herr due not teach, and in fact teach away from, the present system as is recited in amended claim 1. Each reference is directed toward a system that requires a 3rd party to serves the needs of sellers and multiple buyers. For all of the above reasons, claim 1 is considered allowable over any combination of Craig's List, Net News, Centner and Herr. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and are considered allowable for at least the same reasons. Claim 11 recites similar features as claim 1 and is considered allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 12-20 depend from claim 11 and are considered allowable for at least the same reasons.

All claims being allowable, a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Auzville Jackson, Jr." with a period at the end.